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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 163221 TOSEC 060098

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 163221 TOSEC 060098

FOR SAUNDERS

FOL REPEAT BEIRUT 8797 SENT ACTION SECSTATE USUN INFO AMMAN
ABU DHABI ANKARA CAIRO DAMASCUS JERUSALEM JIDDA KUWAIT
LONDON PARIS TEL AVIV DIA USCINCEUR JULY 11, 1975

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8797

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SREF, UNRWA, PLO, XF, CASC (MORGAN,
ERNEST R.)
SUBJECT: UNRWA FINANCING

REFS: (A) STATE 161419; (B) USUN 3277; (C) BEIRUT 8795;
(D) STATE 162657

1. FOR REASONS NOTED BELOW, EMBASSY REGRETS DELAY IN PRESENTA-
TION OF UNRWA CHECK AND SUGGESTS CEREMONIES TAKE PLACE ON JULY 11
AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED.
WE WISH TO SUGGEST THAT
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PAGE 02 STATE 163221 TOSEC 060098

PUBLICITY FROM THIS CONTRIBUTION AT THIS TIME COULD RPT

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

COULD HAVE POSITIVE IMPLICATIONS FOR RELEASE OF COL MORGAN.

2. AS DEPT. AND ADDRESSEES AWARE, THIS EMBASSY GREATLY PREOCCUPIED BY CONTINUED DETENTION OF COL MORGAN AND WISHES EXHAUST EVERY POSSIBILITY WHICH MIGHT ASSIST IN OBTAINING HIS RELEASE UNHARMED. WHILE CERTAIN DEGREE OF MIXING APPLES WITH ORANGES INVOLVED, WE SEE POSSIBILITY THAT PUBLICITY RE THIS USG ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA COULD RPT COULD BE PRODUCTIVE FACTOR IN ACHIEVING THAT END. FOR MAXIMUM EFFECT, HOWEVER, WE MUST PLACE UNRWA PRESENTATION MATERIAL IN LOCAL PRESS FOR SATURDAY, JULY 12 RPT 12 AND THIS REQUIRES THAT EVENT TAKE PLACE TODAY, JULY 11.

3. WE CERTAINLY CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT THIS PLOY WILL BE SUCCESSFUL, BUT SEE SEVERAL POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF EMPLOYING PUBLICITY AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE IN MORGAN CASE:
A) MORGAN'S ABDUCTORS, IF RPT IF THEY DESIRE FACE-SAVING WAY OUT OF DEADLINE THEY HAVE SET, COULD GRAB THIS EVIDENCE OF USG GENEROSITY TO PALESTINIAN POOR AS PRETEXT TO RELEASE MORGAN.
B) AT SAME TIME, THERE COULD BE NO RPT NO LEGITIMATE ACCUSATION THAT USG HAD ACCEDED TO BLACKMAIL IN MORGAN CASE OR VIOLATED LONG-STANDING POLICY OF REFUSING TO PAY RANSOM IN KIDNAPPINGS. BUT EMBASSY AND UNRWA HEADQUARTERS COULD EASILY ANSWER ANY ACCUSATIONS OF CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS CONTRIBUTION AND MORGAN CASE (AFTER RPT AFTER HIS SAFE RETURN) BY POINTING TO FACT THAT MENTION OF DOLS 6 MILLION CONTRIBUTION APPEARED IN COMGEN'S STATEMENT AS EARLY AS MARCH 21, 1975 ADCOM MEETING.
C) PLO COMMAND, WHICH WE BELIEVE BEHAVING CONSTRUCTIVELY ON MORGAN CASE, COULD INTERPRET ANNOUNCEMENT AT THIS TIME POSITIVELY IF THEY CHOOSE. AND, IN VIEW OPEN BREACH WITH "REJECTIONISTS" THAT HAS DEVELOPED IN LAST 24 RPT 24 HOURS, 'ARAFAT MAY RPT MAY EVEN BE MORE INCLINED THAN PREVIOUSLY TO URGE GENEROSITY TO UNRWA ON OIL-RICH ARAB STATES. HE DOES NOT RPT NOT NEED COLLAPSE OF UNRWA SERVICES TO COMPLICATE HIS LIFE AT TIME WHEN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 163221 TOSEC 060098

HE FACING SHOWDOWN WITH HIS PALESTINIAN RIVALS.
D) PUBLICITY WOULD STILL SERVE PURPOSE OF STIMULATING OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS AS ENVISAGED IN BEIRUT 8150 (NOTAL).
E. EVEN GOL AUTHORITIES MIGHT RPT MIGHT BE ABLE TO PARLEY PUBLICITY INTO BARGAINING CHIP IN THEIR TENUOUS CONTACT WITH THOSE HOLDING MORGAN.
F) WE HAVE EXAMINED ISSUE FROM ALL SIDES (UNRWA'S

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

INTERESTS AS WELL AS THOSE OF USG AND COL MORGAN)
AND CONCLUDED THAT WE HAVE NOTHING RPT NOTHING TO
LOSE BY TAILORING TIMING TO THIS IMMEDIATE AND PRESSING
ISSUE.

4. IN VIEW THIS SITUATION, WE STRONGLY URGE DEPT. TO PROVIDE, BY
FLASH CABLE, ITS APPROVAL FOR PRESENTATION CEREMONY IN BEIRUT
TO PROCEED TODAY. WE UNDERSTAND RATIONALE CON-
TAINED REFTEL D FOR POSTPONEMENT BUT BELIEVE POSSIBLE COUNTER-
VAILING ADVANTAGES HERE OUTWEIGHT THOSE CONSIDERATIONS.

5. EMBOFF HAS SPOKEN BY PHONE THIS MORNING WITH SIR JOHN
RENNIE, WHO AWARE WORD ON SAUDI CONTRIBUTION (USUN 3277)
WILL BE RELEASED THIS MORNING. RENNIE CONCERNED THAT TEXT
USG RELEASES IN BEIRUT AND NY NOT RPT NOT CONTAIN VERBI-
AGE WHICH LIKELY PUT OFF FURTHER OIL-RICH ARAB CONTRIBUTIONS.
EMBOFF INFORMED COMGEN THAT USG SENSITIVE TO THIS PROBLEM
AND HAS ALREADY AMENDED ITS TEXT (PARA 2, REFTEL D) BUT
THAT WE WILL COMPARE NOTES WITH HIM ON OUR PRESS RELEASE
AT TIME OF CEREMONY. WE WILL, OF COURSE, ADVISE DEPT. AND
USUN OF RESULTS OF THAT CONSULTATION. GODLEY

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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